

BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5625
CLAUDIO ESKENAZI

MARCH 17, 1978

THIS WEEK NO. 11

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY...A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING THE PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS _____.

NARR:

VIOLENCE ERUPTED ONCE AGAIN IN THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE AFTERMATH OF LAST WEEKEND'S PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST ISRAELI CIVILIANS. ISRAELI AIR, LAND AND NAVAL FORCES INVADED SOUTHERN LEBANON THIS WEEK WITH THE PURPOSE OF DESTROYING PALESTINIAN BASES IN THE AREA. TWO DAYS AFTER THE ISRAELI ATTACK BEGAN, MOST OF THE PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA STRONGHOLDS WERE REPORTEDLY CAPTURED. THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE ALSO ATTACKED FURTHER NORTH OF THE LITANI RIVER HITTING PALESTINIAN TRAINING CAMPS AND OTHER GUERRILLA BASES IN THE BEIRUT AREA.

FROM THE OUTSET OF THE OPERATIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON, THE ISRAELIS WERE CAREFUL TO EMPHASIZE THE LIMITED SIZE OF THE AREA INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN, ISRAEL'S GOAL WAS THE FINAL AND TOTAL ELIMINATION OF PALESTINIAN CONTROL OF SOUTHERN LEBANON. HE ADDED THAT ISRAEL WILL RETAIN ITS MILITARY PRESENCE IN A 7-TO-10 KILIMETER BELT ALONG THE LEBANESE SIDE OF THE BORDER UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT -- IN MISTER WEIZMAN WORDS -- IS ABLE TO EXERCISE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE AREA OR SOME ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION IS WORKED OUT.

LATER IN THE WEEK, ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER MEHACHEM BEGIN SAID ISRAEL HAD EXERCISED WHAT HE CALLED ITS INHERENT RIGHT OF SELF-DEFENSE IN SENDING TROOPS INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON. AND HE ADDED THAT THE LATEST EVENTS SHOULD NOT PREVENT THE CONTINUATION OF PEACE TALKS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT:

TAPE: CUT ONE -- BEGIN

"IF EGYPT SERIOUSLY WANTS TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL ABOUT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE AND THE CONCLUSION OF PEACE TREATIES, ALL THE EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE DURING THE PAST DAYS WILL NOT AND SHOULD NOT BE AN OBSTACLE TO SUCH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE CONCLUSION OF PEACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT."

NARR:

IN WASHINGTON, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE RECENT VIOLENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST UNDERSCORES THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CONFLICT. THE SPOKESMAN ALSO SAID THE PRESENCE OF PALESTINIAN MILITARY UNITS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON HAS POSED A THREAT TO ISRAELI SECURITY SINCE THE PALESTINIANS HAVE NOT ONLY DECLARED OPEN HOSTILITY TOWARD ISRAEL, BUT HAVE LAUNCHED TERRORIST ATTACKS ON THAT COUNTRY. MEANWHILE, SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE SAID THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THE SITUATION:

TAPE: CUT TWO -- VANCE

"I THINK THAT ANY OF THESE INCIDENTS LIKE THIS -- AS WITH THE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY -- THE TERRORIST ACT THAT TOOK PLACE -- ALL OF THESE ARE IMPEDIMENTS TO THE PEACE PROCESS. BUT WE'RE JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WORK OUR WAY AROUND THEM."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK, THE UNITED STATES CALLED ON ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW ITS FORCES FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON, AND EXPRESSED ITS SUPPORT FOR A U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THAT AREA. ARAB REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON WAS

PREDICTABLE. A SPOKESMAN IN DAMASCUS SAID THE ISRAELI OFFENSIVE AMOUNTED TO AN ACT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST A U.N. MEMBER STATE. AND IN CAIRO, PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT, WHO EARLIER IN THE WEEK HAD CONDEMNED THE PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL, SAID ISRAEL SHOULD KNOW THAT BLOODSHED WILL NOT CREATE SECURITY. MISTER SADAT SAID HE CONDEMNS ISRAEL'S KILLING OF ARAB CIVILIANS WITH THE SAME VEHEMENCE WITH WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE KILLING OF ISRAELI CIVILIANS:

TAPE: CUT THREE -- SADAT

"FORCE WILL NOT PROVIDE SECURITY. OTHERS' LAND WILL NOT PROVIDE SECURITY. OTHERS' SOVEREIGNTY WILL NOT PROVIDE SECURITY. IT IS IN THE TERMS OF GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD THAT SECURITY CAN BE PROVIDED AND CAN BE MET NOT THROUGH THE ACT OF FORCE. AND IF ISRAEL TODAY HAS FORCE ALL OF US HAVE FORCE ALSO."

NARR:

THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON A LONG AND HEATED DEBATE REACHED ITS CLIMATE WHEN THE U.S. SENATE RATIFIED THE PANAMA CANAL NEUTRALITY TREATY. THE FINAL VOTE WAS ONE MORE THAN THE NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. WITH AMENDMENTS ATTACHED BY THE SENATE, THE TREATY GIVES THE UNITED STATES THE RIGHT TO KEEP THE PANAMA CANAL NEUTRAL AND OPEN -- EVEN BY MILITARY FORCE -- AFTER PANAMA TAKES FULL CONTROL OF THE WATERWAY IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND. THE TREATY ALSO GIVES U.S. WARSHIPS PRIORITY PASSAGE RIGHTS IN TIMES OF CRISIS.

LAST MINUTE SUPPORT FOR THE NEUTRALITY TREATY CAME WITH THE SENATE'S APPROVAL OF A CONTROVERSIAL RESERVATION TO THE PACT, PERMITTING THE UNITED STATES TO INTERVENE TO KEEP THE CANAL OPEN IF IT IS THREATENED BY LABOR UNREST OR OTHER INTERNAL PROBLEMS IN PANAMA. NOW PANAMA MUST ACCEPT THESE CHANGES BEFORE THE TREATY CAN GO INTO EFFECT. AFTER THE SENATE VOTE, PRESIDENT CARTER HAILED THE RATIFICATION AS A SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENT

TAPE CUT FOUR -- CARTER

"THIS IS A PROMISING STEP TOWARD A NEW ERA IN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH PANAMA AND WITH ALL OF LATIN AMERICA. GENERAL TORRIJOS AND THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN PATIENT AND FOREBEARING DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AND DURING THE SENATE DEBATE. THEY'VE EARNED THE CONFIDENCE, AND RESPECT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. THEIR ACTION DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS IS PROOF OF THEIR WILLINGNESS TO FORM A PARTNERSHIP WITH US, TO JOIN IN COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION."

NARR:

THERE WERE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN THE RHODESIAN SITUATION THIS WEEK IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE AGREEMENT FOR AN INTERNAL SOLUTION BETWEEN IAN SMITH'S WHITE MINORITY GOVERNMENT AND BLACK LEADERS INSIDE RHODESIA. IN LONDON, THE LEADERS OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT, WHICH DID NOT TAKE PART IN THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, REJECTED AN ANGLO-AMERICAN PPEAL TO ATTEND A NEW CNFERENCE OF ALL PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE. ONE OF THE TWO LEADERS OF THE FRONT, JOSHUA NKOMO, SAID THE FIGHTING IN RHODESIA WILL CONTINUE.

ONE OF THE BLACK LEADERS WHO SIGNED THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WAS ALSO IN LONDON FOR TALKS WITH BRITISH OFFICIALS. CHIEF JEREMIAH CHIRAU MAINTAINED THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT LEADERS ARE CUT OF TOUCH WITH THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA. MISTER CHIRAU INSISTED THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT CALLING FOR A MAJORITY BLACK GOVERNMENT NEXT YEAR WAS SIGNED BY THREE BLACK LEADERS WHO -- IN HIS WORDS -- HAVE NINETY PERCENT OF THE COUNTRY'S PEOPLE BEHIND THEM.

AT U.N. HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, THE SECURITY COUNCIL THIS WEEK DECLARED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ILLEGAL AND UNACCEPTABLE. THE AFRICAN SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION TONED IT DOWN FROM EARLIER VERSIONS THAT CONDEMNED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND SO AVOIDED BRITISH AND AMERICAN VETOES. BUT THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN AND THREE OTHER WESTERN NATIONS ABSTAINED IN THE FINAL VOTE.

(OPT U.S. AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG EXPLAINED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL THAT THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT MARKS SOME PROGRESS BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH HAS ACCEPTED THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE. BUT HE SAID THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT IS INADEQUATE BECAUSE IT DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL FACTIONS IN RHODESIA, GIVES IAN SMITH A VETO IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT, AND DOES NOT GUARANTEE FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS UNDER U.N. SUPERVISION.

(END OPT)

STILL, AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG SAID A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND TO THE DIFFERENCES THAT STILL EXIST AMONG THE PARTIES:

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- YOUNG

"MY GOVERNMENT HOPES THAT THESE COUNCIL MEETINGS CAN SERVE AS A CATALYST TO A RENEWED AFFORT TO BRING THE NATIONALIST FORCES TOGETHER IN A NEW ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE A SETTLEMENT WHICH INCLUDES ALL AND WHICH IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN. WE ARE PREPARED TO JOIN WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, WITH ALL THE PARTIES AND THE CONCERNED AFRICAN STATES IN A NEW EFFORT TO MAKE PROGRESS AND REMEDY THE INADEQUACIES OF THE SALISBURY SETTLEMENT PLANS."

NARR:

LATER IN THE WEEK, BRITISH AND U.S. OFFICIALS MET WITH RHODESIAN REPRESENTATIVES IN PRETORIA TO URGE A NEW RHODESIAN PEACE CONFERENCE WHICH WOULD GO BEYOND THE PRESENT INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.

IN FRANCE'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS THIS WEEK, THE SOCIALIST-COMMUNIST COALITION DID WORSE THAN EXPECTED DURING THE FIRST ROUND OF VOTING. AFTER ALL THE RESULTS WERE IN THE LEFTIST PARTIES RECEIVED FORTY NINE AND ONE HALF PERCENT OF THE VOTES WHILE THE CENTER COALITION GOT LITTLE OVER FORTY-EIGHT PERCENT.

(OPT) POLITICAL ANALYSTS IN FRANCE HAVE POINTED OUT THAT THE LEFTIST COALITION NEEDED SLIGHTLY OVER FIFTY PERCENT TO BE ABLE TO WIN THE DECISIVE RUN-OFF THIS SUNDAY. BECAUSE OF THE DEMOGRAPHIC MAKE-UP OF THE FRENCH VOTING DISTRICTS IT TAKES MORE VOTERS TO ELECT A SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST THAN IT DOES A CONSERVATIVE OR A CENTRIST.

IN RELATION TO THE LAST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS FIVE YEARS AGO, THE GAULLISTS HELD THEIR OWN WITH ONLY A SLIGHT DROP IN THEIR POPULAR SUPPORT. THE CENTRISTS OF PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING DID BETTER THAN EXPECTED WITH ABOUT TWENTY PERCENT OF THE POPULAR VOTE. (END OPT)

LATER IN THE WEEK, THE THREE PARTIES OF THE FRENCH LEFT CONCLUDED A LAST MINUTE AGREEMENT TO BURY THEIR DIFFERENCES AND COOPERATE IN SUNDAY'S RUNOFF ELECTIONS. LEADERS FROM THE LEFTIST PARTIES ANNOUNCED THAT THEY WERE WITHDRAWING CANDIDATES IN FAVOR OF THE BEST PLACED ONE AMONG THEM AND CALLED ON ALL THEIR SUPPORTERS TO BACK THE BEST PLACED CONTENDER OF THE LEFT. THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH THE GOVERNMENT COALITION PARTIES HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED, IS CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL FOR THE LEFT TO HAVE A CHANCE AT DEFEATING ITS OPPONENTS ON SUNDAY. MEANWHILE, PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING ONCE AGAIN APPEALED TO THE FRENCH VOTERS TO USE THEIR INTELLIGENCE AND NOT BE TAKEN IN BY WHAT HE CALLED FALSE PROMISES BY THE LEFT TO RAISE THE PURCHASING POWER OF WORKERS AND SHARPLY REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT.

ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE, FORMER ITALIAN PREMIER AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER ALDO MORO WAS KIDNAPPED IN ROME THIS WEEK BY MEMBERS OF THE LEFTWING RED BRIGADE GROUP. FOLLOWING THE TERRORIST ACT, PRIME MINISTER GIULIO ANDREOTTI MET IN EMERGENCY SESSION WITH HIS CABINET TO COORDINATE ACTION IN THE NATIONWIDE

HUNT FOR THE ABDUCTORS. LEADERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD CONDEMNED THE KIDNAPPING AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ITALIANS FROM ALL POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS TOOK TO THE STREETS TO PROTEST THE ABDUCTION AND DEMAND A RETURN TO LAW AND ORDER IN THE COUNTRY.

IN THE HORN OF AFRICA THIS WEEK, SOVIET AND CUBAN-BACKED ETHIOPIAN TROOPS HAVE REPORTEDLY RECAPTURED MOST OF THE OGADEN AREA FROM SOMALI FORCES. BUT ETHNIC SOMALIS WHO FOUGHT IN THE OGADEN HAVE VOWED THEY WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT -- WAGING WHAT THEY DESCRIBE AS A VIETNAM -STYLE CONFLICT.

NEIGHBORING KENYA, WHICH HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED ETHIOPIA, WELCOMED THE ETHIOPIAN VICTORY. KENYAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID SOMALIA'S INVADING FORCES AND ITS TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS HAVE CAUSED SOMALIA TO BE REGARDED AS THE BLACK SHEEP IN THE AFRICAN FAMILY OF NATIONS. THIS, HE ADDED, BECAUSE NO AFRICAN NATION IS NOW WILLING TO OPEN UP THE ISSUE OF NATIONAL BOUNDARIES WHICH OFTEN CUT THROUGH TRADITIONAL TRIBAL AREAS.

IN WASHINGTON LATER IN THE WEEK, A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THE UNITED STATES IS NOW IN A POSITION TO PROCEED WITH TALKS ON PROVIDING ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND DEFENSIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA. THE SPOKESMAN PRAISED SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE FOR TAKING WHAT HE CALLED A DIFFICULT BUT STATESMAN-LIKE APPROACH IN COMPLETELY WITHDRAWING FROM THE OGADEN REGION. AND HE AGAIN CALLED FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN AND SOVIET FORCES FROM ETHIOPIA, SAYING THE RATIONAL FOR THEIR PRESENCE NO LONGER EXISTS.

MEANWHILE, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN AFFAIRS, RICHARD MOOSE, IS NOW IN SOMALIA FOR TALKS ON THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND ON THE POSSIBILITY OF SUPPLYING DEFENSIVE WEAPONS TO MOGADISCIO.

BACK IN THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED MINE WORKERS BARGAINING COUNCIL VOTE THIS WEEK TO ACCEPT A PROPOSED NEW LABOR CONTRACT. NOW THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WILL HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY THE 160 THOUSAND MINERS IN THE FIELD. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY EARLY NEXT WEEK THE COAL MINE UNIONS WILL VOTE ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE CONTRACT -- AND THUS END THE LONGEST COAL STRIKE IN U.S. HISTORY.

(OPT) MEANWHILE MANY MINERS REMAIN SKEPTICAL OF THEIR UNION'S NATIONAL PRESIDENT ARNOLD MILLER, WHO NEGOTIATED TWO OTHER TENTATIVE SETTLEMENTS THIS YEAR BUT LATER FAILED TO WIN FULL UNION APPROVAL. AS ONE MINER EXPRESSED IT:

TAPE: CUT FIVE -- UNION MINER

"RIGHT NOW I HAVEN'T GOT NO CONFIDENCE IN HIM, BUT HE'S ALL WE'VE GOT UP THERE, SO WE'RE GOING TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT IT. WELL, I AM AT LEAST. IF I THINK I LIKE IT, I'LL SIGN IT, AND IF I DON'T, WE'LL REJECT IT." (END OPT)

NARR:

LAST WEEK'S CONTRACT REJECTION BY THE MINERS PROMPTED PRESIDENT CARTER TO INTERVENE IN THE COAL DISPUTE BY OBTAINING A BACK-TO-WORK COURT ORDER, WHICH THUS FAR HAS PRODUCED LIMITED RESULTS.

ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS--. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT -- WHEN THE VOA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

JS/PY/RCS